



# **Overview of Safety Requirements for Electrical and Electronic Products in Australia**



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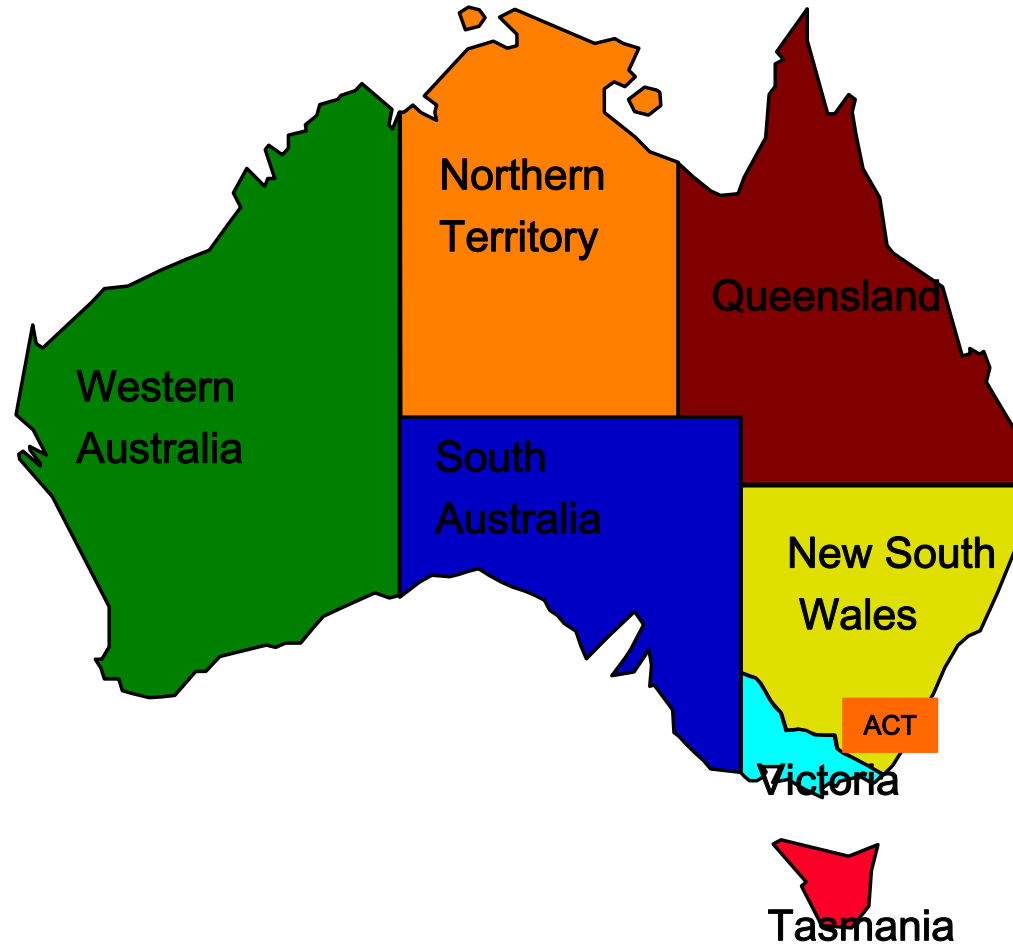


# Australian Regulators

- Federal Government regulates communications but has no jurisdiction over power supply and occupational health safety (except for federal employees)
- Electrical Safety in Australia is regulated by the 6 State and 2 territory governments
- Safety Approval in any one state is accepted by all other states
- Australia New Zealand have MRA on safety regulator approvals

# 8 Australian Safety Regulators

6 State and 2 Territory regulators responsible for electrical safety



New  
Zealand



# Definitions

- **Supply** - equipment to be sold or hired, exposed for sale or hire, or advertised for sale or hire.
- **Prescribed Items** - equipment defined and listed by the electrical regulators as requiring a “Certificate Of Approval” (appendix D of AS/NZS 4417 for RCM)
- **Non-Prescribed Items** - all other items of electrical equipment (still required to meet minimum safety standards)

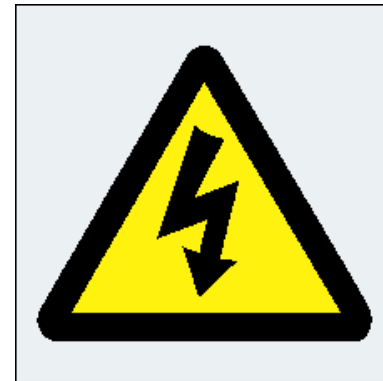
# Responsibilities

- It is the manufacturer or importer of electrical products that is responsible for ensuring the supply of safe products.
- Electrical products must also comply with the requirements of the Australian Communications Authority EMC Framework and other applicable regulations.
- All electrical equipment must be properly labelled

# List of Prescribed Items

- Consumer devices
- Domestic appliances
- TV Receivers
- Battery Chargers
- Transformers/Power packs
- Electronic ballasts
- etc
- etc
- For a current list, go to:

[http://www.esv.vic.gov.au/industry/soeequipment\\_ind.html](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au/industry/soeequipment_ind.html)



# Prescribed Items (Declared Articles)

- Items of electrical equipment which must be tested by an independent test facility to show compliance with an appropriate Australian or equivalent international safety standard.
- Testing must be performed by a **NATA** or **MRA** Partner accredited test laboratory.  
**A2LA, NVLAP, UKAS, DAR, etc**
- Reports from other recognised international labs may be accepted but Australian differences must be tested and reported

# Prescribed Items (Declared Articles)

- The items that require mandatory testing are listed in **AS/NZS 4417** or available from the State or Territory electrical regulators.
- A ***“Certificate of Approval”*** must be obtained from the electrical regulator.
- Appropriate test reports and application forms must be supplied.
- a representative sample may be requested.
- application fees are charged



# Non-Prescribed Items (Non-Declared Articles)

- Defined as items of electrical equipment which are not listed as a Prescribed Items.
- They do not need a “Certificate Of Approval” before being supplied.
- They must still meet the minimum requirements of the appropriate electrical standard.

# Non-Prescribed Items (Non-Declared Articles)

- Evidence must be provided to show that the product meets the minimum safety standards. May be a combination of some of the following :
  - Independent test reports from a NATA or MRA Partner accredited laboratory.
  - Internal design and testing documentation.
  - Obtain a voluntary “Certificate of Suitability”.
  - Meet the requirements to apply the Regulatory Compliance Mark.



# Non-Prescribed Items (Non-Declared Articles)

- *Certificate Of Suitability* - an approval certificate from a State or Territory electrical regulator for non-prescribed item which meets minimum safety standards.
- Obtained by providing the electrical regulator with **NATA** or equivalent endorsed test reports and the appropriate application forms and fees.

# How to Obtain Approval Certificates

- Lodge Applications with State or Territory Electrical Regulator.
  - (i) A completed and signed application form.  
For modifications include an itemised list of deviations from the originally approved article and a declaration that the remainder of the article is unchanged, and

# How to Obtain Approval Certificates

- (ii) The application fee, and
- (iii) A fully compliant test report (reports from NATA or MRA laboratories) and
- (iv) Supporting documentation including installation and operating instructions, circuit diagrams, materials and component lists, and
- (v) A complete, compliant production sample of the equipment **(not always requested)**

# Renewal of Certificates

- A “Certificate Of Approval” or “Certificate of Suitability” is valid for 5 years
- It is necessary to renew an approval, prior to expiry of the existing approval, if the product is continuing to be supplied 5 years after the existing approval date.
- The procedure for applying for approval renewal is the same as for an original application.

# Modified Equipment

- Where modifications are made to previously approved equipment and the equipment is still being supplied, the applicant must apply to the Electrical Regulator to have the modifications approved.
- Separate applications, similar to a new approval are required for modifications

# Modified Equipment

- Approval of modified equipment is valid only for the remaining duration of the original approval.
- Check with the regulator that your specific modification is NOT deemed to constitute a new type of equipment.






# EMC Framework


- The EMC framework is mandatory for all products
- C-tick regulations apply in addition to safety

# Compliance Labelling Requirements

- **Prescribed Items:**

-  ACA Suppliers Number and “Certificate Of Approval” number.

- **Non-prescribed Item:**

-  ACA Suppliers Number and optional “Certificate Of Suitability” number.
- In English, legible, durable; not easily removed; and
- Placed on an external surface (or one readily accessible to the user). If this is not available, contact the appropriate regulator for an alternative option.

# Further Information

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